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PROPOSED SEARCH FOR

MACKEREL.

CAPT. C. A. DYER OF

PORTLAND BELIEVES THE GRAMPUS WILL AID.

MAY FIND CAUSE OF DIS-
APPEARANCE OF DESIRED
FISH.

Capt. Charles A. Dyer of Portland, the veteran mackerel expert of the state of Maine, expects much valuable information to result from the coming mackerel searching cruise of the fish commission sch. Grampus.

Capt. Dyer, who has previously written for the Times, some of his theories as to the disappearance of mackerel from the Maine and Massachusetts coasts, says that the most valuable aid in the matter of fishing out about the mackerel can be secured from the cruising of the Grampus, and also believes that the newspapers directly interested in the fisheries can be of great help, by constantly urging the importance of the work and making interesting mackerel reports.

Capt. Dyer says that the American fisheries interest was never better equipped than now with men and vessels to carry on the mackerel fishery, but what is wanted most just now is to locate the mackerel schools on the old feeding grounds and also to find out why they do not come to these feeding grounds as of yore.

"If this absence," he says, "is caused by the breaking up of the schools out south by the seiners before they get a chance to locate north, the public and the vessel owners, the mackerel buyers and the mackerel catchers all want to know it and then there should be a close season and a halt called on the early southern fishing.

"Our bays along the Massachusetts and Maine coasts previous to 1886 were teeming with mackerel and the small boats used to catch them, salting thousands of barrels. They do not come in these bays of late years, and I think the Grampus, with a practical mackerel man on board, will find out whether it is the absence of feed in the water, or the presence of blue fish, bonitas and other fish that have driven them or caused them to keep away from our coast, or whether it is the breaking up of the schools out south.

The fishermen that go south report, every year, large bodies of mackerel, but they lose sight of them. They seem to disappear and do not come north in large bodies as they did previous to 1886. The Grampus' cruise will be watched with interest.

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NEWBURYPORT CRAFT.

Fishing Boat Will Be Largest Gas-
oliner on the Merrimac.

Currier Brothers have taken the contract to build a new fishing boat for Capt. George W. Short of Newburyport. The boat will be the largest power boat ever built on the Merrimac river. She will be a double ender, 42 feet over all, 10 foot beam, and 4 1-2 feet deep. Her capacity will be 30,000 pounds of fish.

Capt. Short is well known here, having run fares of herring, bluebacks, pollock, etc., here for a number of years.

The boat is to be finished by April 1, and will probably join the southern mackerel netting fleet. Her frame and timbers are to be all of seasoned white oak and built substantially.

H. Porter Brown of Hampton, N. H., is getting out the keel which will be in one piece, 5 inches thick, of clear white oak. The craft will have two cabins and berths for eight men.

Currier Brothers are intending to make a new vessel one that will eclipse anything of the kind seen along the North shore. She will be built on new and original lines.

She will be propelled by a 16-horse power Barber engine.

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SCH. ATLANTA RETURNED
FROM TWELVE WEEKS HAL-
T BUT TRIP LAST NIGHT.
The Atlanta left Glou-

cester November 24, going first to Western Bank. The craft then fished on Quero. After being out five weeks she went into Louisburg, C. B., and re-fitted. She then fished nearly everywhere except the Gully. Meeting with poor success on the western grounds the craft was headed for Grand Bank, but did little fishing there on account of bad weather. Quero was again visited and a few fish secured. The weather was very bad during the entire voyage.

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Today's Receipts.

Sch. Atalanta, Quero Bank, 5000 lbs. halibut, 9000 lbs. salt cod.
Sch. Speculator, Le Have Bank, 30,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Alice R. Lawson, Newfound-land.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, shore.
Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.
Sch. Minerva, shore.
Sch. Pontiac, shore.
Sch. Hortense, shore.
Sch. Valentinna, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Steamer Bessie Dugan, shore.
Sch. Ellen C. Burke, shore.
Sch. Manomet, Boston.
Sch. Mary E. Cooney, Boston.
Sch. Emily Cooney, Boston.
Sch. Washakie, Boston.
Sch. Viking, Boston.
Sch. Hope, Boston.
Sch. Valentinna, Boston.

Today's Fish Market.

Salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.
Bank halibut, 11 cts. per lb. for white and 9 cts. for gray.
Salt pollock, \$1; salt haddock, \$1; salt hake, \$1.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$1.65; medius, \$1.37-1-2; Eastern cod, large \$1.65; medium, \$1.37 1-2; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1 for medium and 50 cts. for snappers; haddock, 60 cts.; hake, 60 cts.; pollock, 60 cts.
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medium, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums, \$2; snappers, \$1.
Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.60 to \$2.50 per cwt.
Newfoundland frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt.

Boston.

Sch. Blanche F. Irving, 6000 cod.
Sch. Little Fannie, 2000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. Louisa R. Sylvia, 15,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 3000 pollock.
Sch. Flaviilla, 3500 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Sadie M. Nunan, 28,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Aspinet, 23,000 haddock.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes.
Sch. Philip P. Manta, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Buena, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Manomet, 7000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Seaconnet, 10,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Thomas J. Carroll, 8000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Olive F. Hutchins, 11,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Mooween, 25,000 halibut.
Sch. Washakie, 17,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, 13,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Mary B. Greer, 14,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Frances P. Mesquita, 4000 haddock, 500 cod, 4000 hake.

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Sch. Elva L. Spurling, 500 haddock, 14,000 cod.
Sch. Mattakesett, 22,000 haddock, 500 cod.
Sch. Athena, 15,000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Lillian, 10,000 cod.
Sch. Motor, 1500 cod.
Sch. Teresa and Alice, 5000 haddock, 200 cod, 200 hake.
Sch. Viking, 7000 haddock, 2000 cod.
Sch. Sylvia N. Nunan, 14,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Gracie.
Sch. Hope.
Sch. George E. Lane, Jr., 6000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Sch. Mary Edith, 18,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Emily Cooney, 7000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake.
Sch. Mary E. Cooney.
Sch. Frances V. Sylvia, 11,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 7000 hake.
Sch. Leo, 2500 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.
Sch. Ethel B. Penney, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake.
Haddock, \$2.75 to \$2.90 per cwt.; large cod, \$4.50 to \$5; market cod, \$3 to \$3.50; hake, \$3 to \$5.50; pollock, \$3.

Portland Arrivals.

Arrived Friday:

Sch. Hobson, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sloop Hobson, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.
Steamer Elthier.
Sch. Etta B.

PORT OF GLOUCESTER.

Arrived Today.

Tug Lenape, towing barge Glendower, Philadelphia, the latter with coal for Griffin & Co.

Sch. S. J. Lindsey, Boston for Rockland.

Sch. Hume, Boston for Rockland.

Sch. Morris and Cliff, Boston for Rockland.

Sch. Game Cock, Boston from Rockland.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Several of the shack fleet are in here today as it is no fish day outside. Sch. Arabia was at Halifax, N. S., for harbor last Thursday.

Still Catching Herring.

At Bay of Islands, N. F., the local fishermen are still catching some herring, but the fish taken lately are small. About 500 barrels of frozen stock were shipped to Port au Basque, to go on the steamer Bruce, to Montreal.

The Western Star says:

"There is money in the herring business, provided it is handled in an intelligent manner, instead of the haphazard way in which the trade is conducted at present."

Good Stock.

Sch. Massachusetts, Capt. John J. Carroll, stocked \$2400 on her recent halibut trip, the crew sharing \$52.50.

Putting Herring in Freezer.

Sch. Tattler is putting the remainder of her cargo of frozen herring into the freezer at this port.

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Fishing Facts and Fancies.

At Cape Hatteras porpoise fishing is becoming quite an industry. The hides are salted down and shipped to Boston. The fat of the porpoise is fried out and makes a very fine oil.

During the first nine business days of this year 670,800 pounds of fish were shipped from Punta Gorda, Fla.

The Fisheries Board of South Carolina reports that the catch of shad during 1908 exceeded that of the previous year.

At the meeting of the Louisburg, C. B., Fish Co., the auditor reported the total receipts for the year ending Dec. 31 to be \$8,983.34, and the expenditures \$8,955.28, leaving a balance on hand of \$28.06. The concern was only organized last year.

Fishermen of Galveston, Tex., are now holding their meetings on every other Sunday. This was made necessary owing to the rush of work on other days, and by the fact that there were matters held recently brought out the fact that the members are still very much alive to the interests of the organization and that they are staunch in their support of their friends and patrons. The boats are all busy and goodly cargoes of the choice product of the bay are being brought in at regular intervals.

Sealing Craft.

The smallest sealing steamer to engage this season in the Newfoundland seal fishing is steamer Kate of 190 tons register, carrying 12,000 seals and the largest is the new steamer Florizel of 1979 tons net with a carrying capacity of 130,000 seal pelts.

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SCORES STATES ON FISHERIES.

Bowers Says They Neutralize Good Work of the Government.

"The most serious condition now confronting the American fishing industry is the failure of the States to afford adequate protection to migratory fishes in State and interstate waters." This is the serious note of warning sounded by George M. Bowers, United States fish commissioner, in his annual report made public recently. Mr. Bowers depicts the great destruction wrought on certain species of fish, and makes an earnest appeal for their preservation. The commissioner points to the history of the New England salmon fishery as a warning, and says that the fishes in most need of consideration are the shad, the striped bass and the sturgeon on the Atlantic coast and the salmon in the Pacific States. The disappearance of the sturgeon from nearly every East coast river, Mr. Bowers says, "shows how greed and indifference may in a single generation destroy a valuable fishery." North Carolina stands out as the only state, he says, in which the bureau engages in the cultivation of shad, and where the general decline of this fishery has been arrested. Of serious concern are the trend and condition of the salmon fishery of the Columbia River. Mr. Bowers declares that "fractional and personal considerations have been allowed to interfere with the passage of the needed laws, and the condition remains unrelieved." The bureau's efforts in artificial propagation are negated by the State's indifference, he says, and the necessity for Federal control of interstate waters in the interest of the fisheries is thus again forcefully illustrated. The devotees of the lobster are informed of a remarkable increase in the production of this delicacy all along the New England coast. The report shows that the bureau's hatcheries in 1908 yielded 376,000,000 more fish than in any other year.

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DOGFISH AS GOOD FOOD.

Maine Fish Commissioner Believes in Their Edibility.

James E. Donahue, fish commissioner of the state of Maine, says the dogfish is one of the best edible fish we have, and some of the Maine fishermen agree with him, thus backing up what the Times has many times stated and what some of its staff have proven to their own satisfaction by serving themselves and their families with it.

Commissioner Donahue says:

"I believe the the dogfish is one of the best edible fish we have, and it will not be necessary to exterminate the species if it is once introduced on the tables of our epicures."

Commissioner Donahue's idea that a dogfish can be eaten is not exactly original, but that the hated salt water canine is really a food for luxury is a somewhat novel thought.

One Casco Bay fisherman, when told of the commissioner's statement, grunted, "Huh! I'd as soon eat a skunk or a rat as a dogfish."

Yet there is logic in the commissioner's theory, who says in continuation:

"Several years ago people would have thought no more of eating a catfish than they would of taking poison, but now it is considered a table delicacy, and is sought by epicures. The flesh of the dogfish is much finer, sweeter and whiter than that of the catfish, and I know what I am talking about, for I have eaten both."

Angus K. Hamilton of Orr's Island, Casco Bay, Me., a sturdy fisherman who has followed the sea for 33 years, bears out fully Commissioner Donahue's theory:

"While I hate the pesky cusses commented Mr. Hamilton, 'I have eaten 'em, 'n so has my whole fam'ly for 10 years past. We've boiled 'em, planked 'em, fried 'em and made 'em into chowders, and let me tell you when you've chopped off their heads, skinned 'em, 'n otherwise dissected 'em so you forgit what they look like, they's just as good as two-thirds of the fish that swims. I think Mr. Donahue's got the right idee, 'n the only way to settle this thing 'n keep

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our coast fishin' so a man can make a livin' out of it, is to turn the dogfish into a market fish along with the cod, hake 'n haddock."

One or two partially philanthropic attempts to put the dogfish out of business have been tried. For instance, back in the 30's, the menhaden works in Boothbay harbor found the porgy very scarce, and one of the dealers advertised that he would buy all the dogfish that might be brought to his factory. The first season he received 2,000,000; the second season, about 1,000,000; the third season, 500,000; the fourth season, none. The fishermen claimed that for a distance of 40 miles the coast water were rid of the fish.

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Halibut Sale.

The fare of halibut of sch. Mooween at Boston yesterday sold to the New England Fish Co. at 11 cents per pound for white and 9 cents for gray.

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Today's Receipts.

Sch. Walter P. Goulart, shore.
Sch. Minerva, shore.
Sch. Effie M. Prior, Western Bank, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Georgianna, shore.
Sch. Gracie, shore.
Sch. Rita A. Viator, shore.
Sch. Francis P. Mesquita, shore.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, shore.
Sch. Washakie, shore.
Sch. Clara G. Silva, shore.
Sch. Emily Cooney, shore.
Sch. Mary E. Cooney, shore.
Sch. Edith Silveira, shore.
Sch. Emily Sears, shore.
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Stranger, Boston.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, Boston.
Sch. Margaret Dillon, Boston.

Today's Fish Market.

Salt Georges cod, large, \$3.50; mediums, \$3.00.
Bank halibut, 11 cts. per lb. for white and 9 cts. for gray.
Salt pollock, \$1; salt haddock, \$1; salt hake, \$1.
Splitting prices for fresh fish, Western cod, large \$1.65; medimus, \$1.37-1-2; Eastern cod, large \$1.65; medimus, \$1.37 1-2; cusk, \$1.60 for large, \$1 for medium and 50 cts. for snappers; haddock, 60 cts.; hake, 60 cts.; pollock, 60 cts.
Trawl bank cod, large, \$3.25; medimus, \$2.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Salt cusk, large, \$2.50; mediums, \$2; snappers, \$1.
Shore frozen herring, for bait, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cwt.
Newfoundland frozen herring, for bait, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per cwt.

Boston.

Sch. Yakima, 35,000 haddock, 7000 cod, 4000 cusk, 3000 pollock.
Sch. Hockomock, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod, 500 hake, 1000 cusk.
Sch. Stranger, 3400 haddock, 600 cod.
Sch. Maud F. Silva, 8000 haddock, 2000 cod, 1000 pollock.
Sch. Margaret Dillon, 7000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 hake.
Sch. Valentina, 1000 haddock, 6000 cod.
Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 10,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake.
Sch. Dorothy, 8000 haddock, 1000 cod, 3000 hake.
Sch. Belbina P. Domingoes, 9000 haddock, 1000 cod.
Haddock, \$2.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$3 to \$6; market cod, \$2 to \$4; hake, \$3 to \$5; pollock, \$4.
Late advices from Boston state that haddock sold as low as \$1.50 and large cod as low as \$2.50 this forenoon.

Portland Arrivals.

Portland is handling quite a lot of fish this winter and has a fleet of about 20 of the market boats running there all the time. Of late they have been doing well and on Saturday, a dozen were in together with good fares, having been out only a couple of days. The skippers report that fish appear to be quite abundant on the shore grounds. The Saturday trips were:

Sch. Albert D. Willard, 13,000 pounds fresh fish.
Sch. Albert W. Black, 14,000 pounds fresh fish.
Sch. George H. Lube, 14,000 pounds fresh fish.
Sch. Bernie and Bessie, 4000 pounds fresh fish.
Sch. Mary E. Sinnett, 4000 pounds fresh fish.
Sch. Lochinvar, 8000 pounds fresh fish.
Sch. Fanny Reed, 7000 pounds fresh fish.

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Sch. A. P. Parkhurst, 4000 pounds fresh fish.

Sloop Hobson, 1500 pounds fresh fish.
Sloop Island Gem, 2000 pounds fresh fish.

Sch. Defender, 5000 pounds fresh fish.

Sch. Laconia, 4000 pounds fresh fish.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Mina Swim is fitting for Georges handlining under command of Capt. Newell.

Salt Herring Cargo.

Sch. Muriel M. Young of Lunenburg, N. S., now at that port with a cargo of salt herring, will soon sail for an American market to dispose of her cargo.

FISH RECEIPTS LIGHT.

No Arrivals at This Port and Few at Boston.

There are no fishing arrivals here this morning from off shore. Several of the boats which went out last night put back again this morning and some of them, with one set aboard, may land their fish or box them up and ship to Boston on their own account.

Receipts at T wharf today are light there being only one off shore arrival and eight shore boats in and all with not very large fares. Prices are good as is to be expected on a Tuesday with but few fares to work on.

New Fish Company.

The United Fish Company, of Boston, has been incorporated, with a capital of \$3000.

President—Daniel J. O'Brien, Winthrop.

Treasurer—Herbert L. Chase, Boston.

Clerk—William J. O'Brien, Winthrop.

The company will be wholesale and commission dealers in fresh and salt fish, lobsters, etc., at 7 Long wharf, Boston, where a four-story building is used. Business was opened up a week ago Monday morning.

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Fishing Facts and Fancies.

An improvement is noted in the Irish mackerel fishing, which for some time has been at a virtual standstill. There has been some fishing on the Cork and Kerry coasts, and probably 800 or 1000 barrels have been cured, but the fish are of the dark winter quality. The total recent shipments of autumn mackerel are 15,638 barrels.

Three English vessels, two belonging to Grimsby and one to Hull, were recently fined 1500 kroners each, with costs and confiscation of gear and fish, for trawling within the territorial limits in the North Sea or Skagerack and five English and one German trawler were "warned." Within the Scaw one Swedish trawler was fined 800 kroners and two Germans 1000 kroners each for the same offense, with the usual confiscations; two other Germans were warned. The number of trawlers observed fishing within the Scaw was 1207, as compared with 1225 in the previous year.

The Florizel, Bowring Bros.' new sealing steamer, built at Glasgow, has reached St. John's, Newfoundland.

A seal which was recently shot in the Baltic was found to have in its stomach 54 perch and a pike, as well as a lot of fish remains. Another, shot at Aarhus by a fisherman, contained, it is alleged, 1000 hooks, and seemed not a penny the worse.

The steamer Harlaw, Capt. Scott, is being fitted out at Halifax for sealing. This will be the first time for some years that a sealing steamer has sailed from Halifax, to work in the northern latitudes.

Libelled Schooner.

Gus Johnson, a fisherman of Biloxi, Miss., has libelled the fishing schooner E. Hempstead. He charges cruel and inhuman treatment on the part of the captain, Adolph L. Frietsch. The latter charges there was mutiny aboard the craft, and in self-defence he had to defend himself when attacked by the seamen with an iron pump brake.

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Halibut Sales.

The fare of sch. Waldo L. Stream sold to the New England Fish Co. at 11 cents per pound for white and 9 cents per pound for gray. The fare of sch. Senator sold to the American Halibut Co. at the same figure.